GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3823
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
JUDICIAL REFORMS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Courts against the accused/litigants are delayed due to filing of plea after plea and by getting stay orders from the Courts as reported in the Times of India dated February 12,2001; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to find out the ways to deal with such type of shortcomings in legal system?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a): Yes, sir

(b): Both Government and Judiciary are concerned withthe delays in delivery of justice. Admission of pleas and grant of stay orders are matters which relate to judicial functions of judges, and Government normally does not directly intervene in such matters.

However, the Department of Justice has taken some initiatives this year for reducing delays in the judicial system. These include Setting up of Fast Track Courts for expediting the disposal of long pending cases, priority being given to cases involving undertrials in jails and all Sessions cases pending for two years or more. A number of other steps are being taken to streamline the judicial system of the country which is an on-going and continuous process. Steps are being taken to simplify the precedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report has also made a numberof recommendations on the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Steps have been taken by the High Courts and subordinate courts to reduce and control arrears of cases pursuant to the recommendations of the Malimath committee. Other steps include increase in the number of posts of judges/judicial officers, establishment of Special courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistratesand adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made for improvement in the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of information technology.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating todevelopment of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented from 1993-94 under which an amount of Rs. 407.69 crore has been released till January 2001.